CLAIMS

1) The use, as an insecticide, of a polypeptide comprising a sequence which satisfies the following general formula (I):

$X_1CX_2CX_3CX_4CX_5CX_6CX_7$ (I)

in which C represents a cysteine residue, X_1 represents an amino acid or a sequence of 2 to 10 amino acids, X_2 represents an amino acid or a sequence of 2 to 5 amino acids, X_3 represents a sequence of 4 to 10 amino acids, X_4 represents a sequence of 3 to 10 amino acids, X_5 represents an amino acid or a sequence of 2 to 4 amino acids, X_6 represents a sequence of 7 to 15 amino acids, and X_7 represents an amino acid or a sequence of 2 to 10 amino acids.

2) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that X_1 represents a dipeptide, X_2 represents a tripeptide, X_3 represents a heptapeptide, X_4 represents a tetrapeptide, X_5 represents an amino acid, X_6 represents a nonapeptide, and X_7 represents a pentapeptide.

3) The use as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that:

- X_1 satisfies the sequence y_1y_2 in which y_1 and y_2 each represent an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine, or y_1 represents an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine, and y_2 represents glutamic acid or aspartic acid; and/or
- X_2 satisfies the sequence $y_3y_4y_5$ in which y_3 represents glutamine or asparagine, and y_4 and y_5 each represent an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine, threonine, valine, leucine, isoleucine and methionine; and/or
- X_3 satisfies the sequence $y_6y_7y_8y_9y_{10}y_{11}y_{12}$ in which y_6 represents an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine, y_7, y_{11} and y_{12} each represent proline, y_8 represents an amino acid chosen from phenylalanine, tryptophan and tyrosine, y_9 represents

aspartic acid or glutamic acid, and y_{10} represents an amino acid chosen from valine, leucine, isoleucine and methionine; and/or

- X_4 satisfies the sequence $y_{13}y_{14}y_{15}y_{16}$, in which y_{13}, y_{14}, y_{15} and y_{16} each represent an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine, or y_{14} represents an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine, y_{13} and y_{15} each represent a basic amino acid, and y_{16} represents aspartic acid or glutamic acid; and/or

- X_5 represents a basic amino acid; and/or

- X_6 satisfies the sequence $y_{17}y_{18}y_{19}y_{20}y_{21}y_{22}y_{23}y_{24}y_{25}$, in which y_{17}, y_{19}, y_{21} and y_{23} each represent an amino acid chosen from valine, leucine, isoleucine and methionine, y_{18} represents proline, y_{20} and y_{24} each represent an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine, y_{22} represents an amino acid chosen from valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan and tyrosine, and y_{25} represents an amino acid chosen from phenylalanine, tryptophan and tyrosine; and/or

- X_7 satisfies the sequence $y_{26}y_{27}y_{28}y_{29}y_{30}$ in which y_{26} represents a basic amino acid or an amino acid chosen from valine, leucine, isoleucine and methionine, y_{27} represents asparagine or glutamine or a basic amino acid, y_{28} represents proline, and y_{29} and y_{30} each represent an amino acid chosen from alanine, serine, glycine and threonine.

4) The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the polypeptide used as an insecticide has at least 60% identity with any one of the isoforms of a PA1b albumin.

5) The use as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said polypeptide is chosen from the group consisting of PA1b albumins and leginsulins.

6) The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said polypeptide is used

for protecting cereal seeds, or products derived from them, against insect pests.

7) The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said polypeptide is used for protecting plants against insects which are pests for cereal grains.

8) The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that said polypeptide is used at a concentration of 10 µmol/kg to 100 mmol/kg.

9) The use as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said polypeptide is used at a concentration of 50 µmol/kg to 10 mmol/kg.

10) The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that it comprises the treatment of the product to be protected with a preparation comprising said polypeptide.

11) The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that it comprises the production of a transgenic plant which is transformed with at least one gene encoding said polypeptide, and which expresses the latter in at least one of its tissues or organs.

12) The use as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that said transgenic plant is a cereal.